

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2 and 8 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 19 and 20 are currently being amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 19 and 20 can be found at least in original claim 2.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-7 and 9-20 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 6 and 15-18 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,509,832 to Bauer et al. (hereafter “Bauer”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0098908 to Misaji et al. (hereafter “Misaji”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 19 and 20, as amended, are all directed to an outside mirror for a vehicle comprising a visible-light emitting unit where “the visible-light emitting unit is arranged such that the visible light emitted does not directly enter into the image capturing unit”, and “the visible-light emitting unit functions as any one of a side-turn lamp, a side marker lamp, or a turn lamp of a front combination lamp of the vehicle.” Bauer and Misaji fail to disclose an outside mirror for a vehicle comprising a visible-light emitting unit which

functions as any one of a side-turn lamp, a side marker lamp, or a turn lamp of a front combination lamp of the vehicle, and where the visible-light emitting unit is arranged such that the visible light emitted does not directly enter into an image capturing unit of the outside mirror.

While Bauer discloses that cameras (image capturing units) may be mounted in exterior rearview mirror assemblies (col. 14, lines 34-38), Bauer does not disclose that the rearview mirror assemblies include visible-light emitting units, much less visible light emitting units arranged such that the visible light emitted does not directly enter into the cameras. Further, because Bauer does not disclose visible-light emitting units for its rearview mirror assemblies, Bauer cannot disclose a side-turn lamp, a side marker lamp, or a turn lamp of a front combination lamp for its mirror assemblies. Thus, Bauer does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 19 or 20. Misajii fails to cure the deficiencies of Bauer.

The Office Action on page 2 relies on Misajii for allegedly disclosing “an outside mirror for a vehicle comprising an image capturing unit 20 and a visible light emitting unit 30 (Paragraph 35) that functions as a side marker lamp of the vehicle.” Applicants respectfully disagree. Misajii merely discloses a rearview mirror (outside mirror) comprising a camera 20 (image capturing unit) and a plurality of luminous bodies 30 (visible-light emitting units), where the light from the luminous bodies is directed to an imaging area of the camera, to thus improve the quality of the acquired image (see paragraph [0054]). Misajii, however, does not disclose that its luminous bodies 30 are arranged to function as a side marker lamp, a side-turn lamp, or a turn lamp of a front combination lamp. Thus even if Bauer and Misajii were combined, the combination would not meet the limitations of independent claims 1, 19 and 20.

The dependent claims depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein. For example, claim 7 recites “an infrared emitting unit that emits infrared radiation.” Bauer merely discloses that the LEDs 508 for its tail light assembly may include LEDs for emitting IR radiation, but fails to disclose such IR emitting LEDs for its exterior rearview or outside mirror assembly.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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